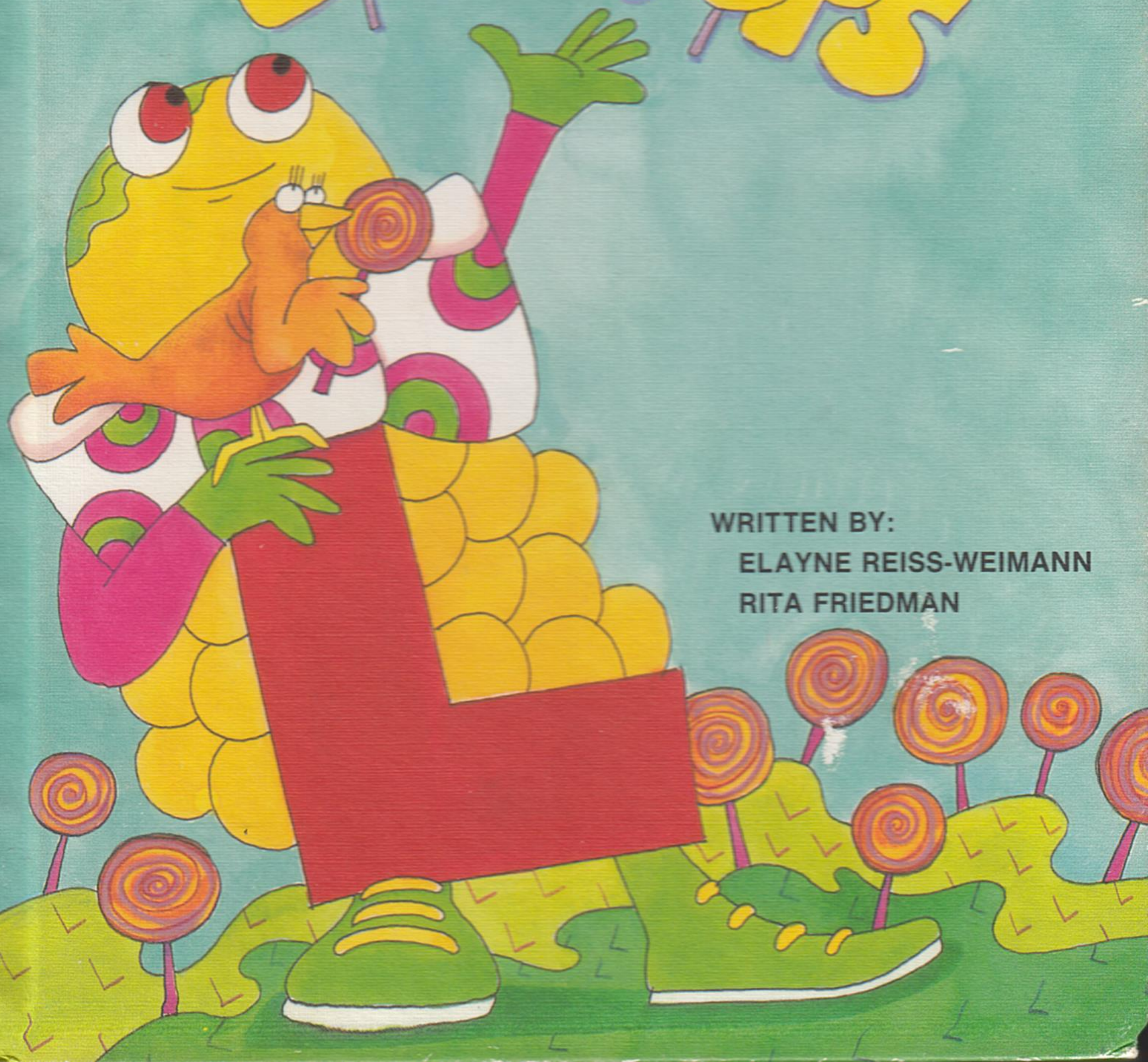


LEMONBEAR LOLLIPOPS



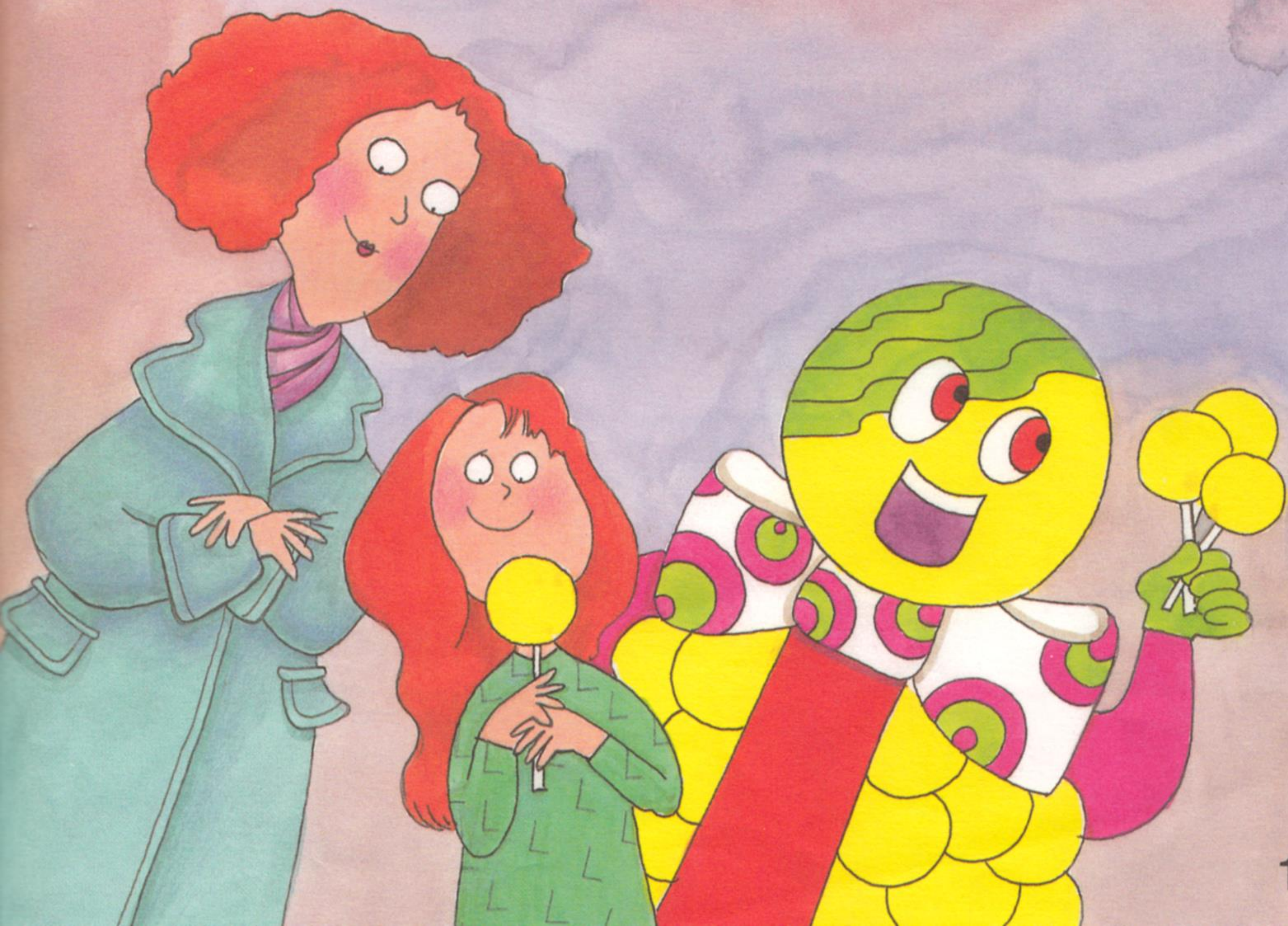
WRITTEN BY:
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RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. L's lemon lollipops are well liked
in Letter People Land.

Every day he makes loads and loads of lemon lollipops.

Mr. L has many customers.

They buy all the lemon lollipops he makes.



One day Mr. L gets lots of letters from his customers.
“We cannot buy your lemon lollipops anymore,”
says each letter.

“Lemon lollipops are made with sugar,
and sugar is bad for our teeth.”

Mr. L understands, but he is very sad.

He stops making lemon lollipops.

He stays at home and feels sorry for himself.



Lady Lark Bird finds Mr. L in his living room.

“Why did you stop making lemon lollipops?” she asks.

“People will not buy lemon lollipops made with sugar,” explains Mr. L.

“Find another way to sweeten your lollipops,” says Lady Lark Bird.

“I can only do what I know how to do,” says Mr. L.

“No, Mr. L, you can learn to do new and better things,” says Lady Lark Bird.



“It is not easy to change the way I have always made lemon lollipops,” says Mr. L.

“When there is a good reason to change, you should try,” says Lady Lark Bird.

“Maybe I can learn to do something new,” says Mr. L.

“I’ll try to make a sweet lollipop without sugar.”

“Now I like the way you are thinking!”

laughs Lady Lark Bird.



Mr. L works for a long time.
He makes a new lemon lollipop mixture.
Mr. L mixes and mixes.
At last he has lemon lollipops to lick.
Mr. L licks one lemon lollipop.
Lady Lark Bird looks at Mr. L.
Mr. L's mouth starts to pucker.
"This lemon lollipop is too sour," says Mr. L.
"I can only do what I can do.
And I cannot make sweet lemon lollipops without sugar."



“Mr. L, you cannot give up,” says Lady Lark Bird.
“I’ll taste a lemon lollipop and tell you
what I think.”

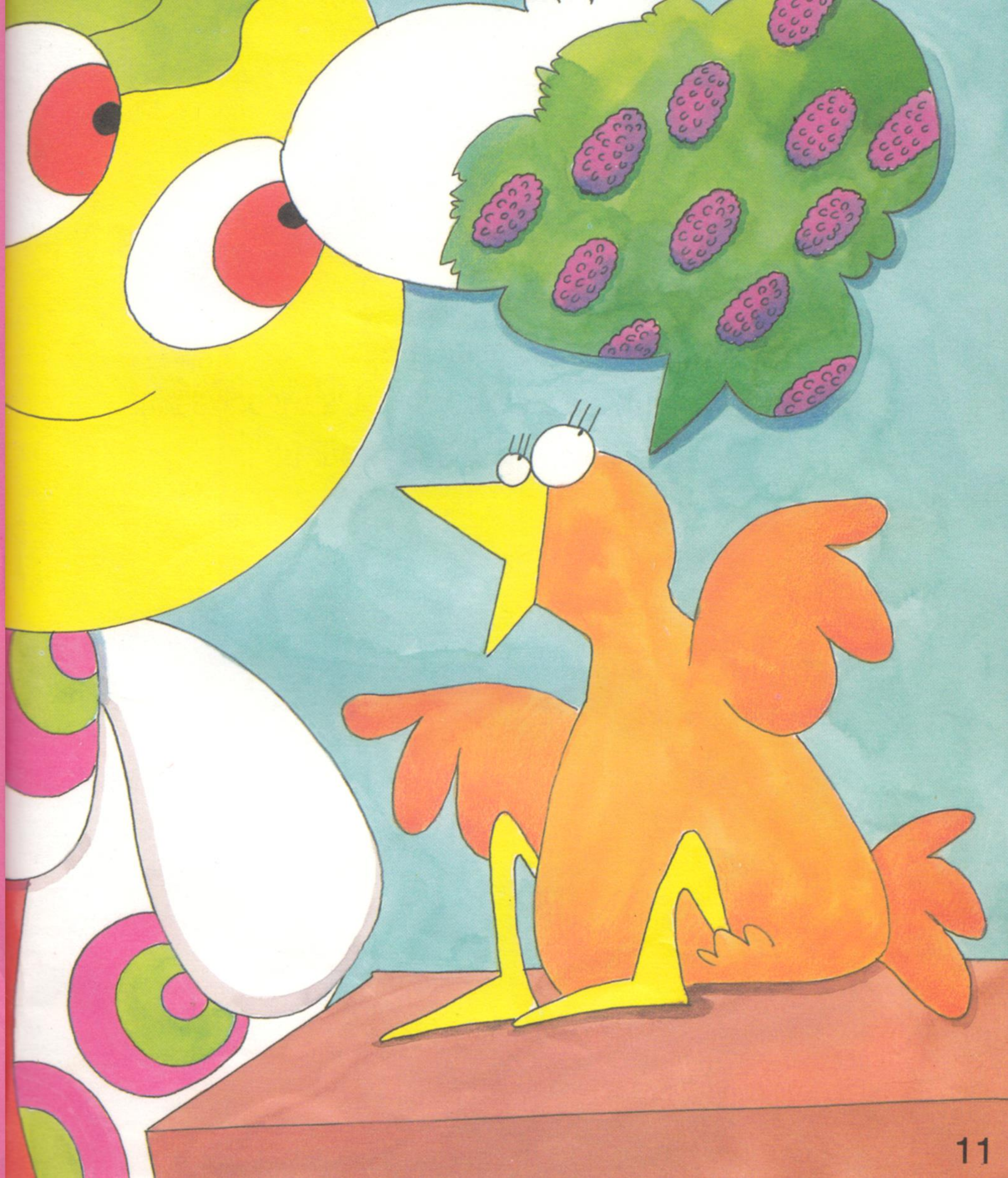
Lady Lark Bird licks the lemon lollipop.

“Yes,” she says, “the lemon lollipop is too sour.”

“Lollipops should be as sweet
as the sweet berries I find on bushes.”

“Sweet berries! Sweet berries!” shouts Mr. L,
leaping into the air.

“Lady Lark Bird, my imagination has given me
a great idea.”



Lady Lark Bird listens to Mr. L's idea.
Then she tweets a long, loud tweet.
Suddenly lots of larks land on Mr. L's window ledge.
"We need your help," says Lady Lark Bird.
The larks listen to Mr. L's idea.
"We'd love to help," they say.
"Please come back later, after lunch," says Mr. L.
"Before you can help, I have work to do."
The larks leave.



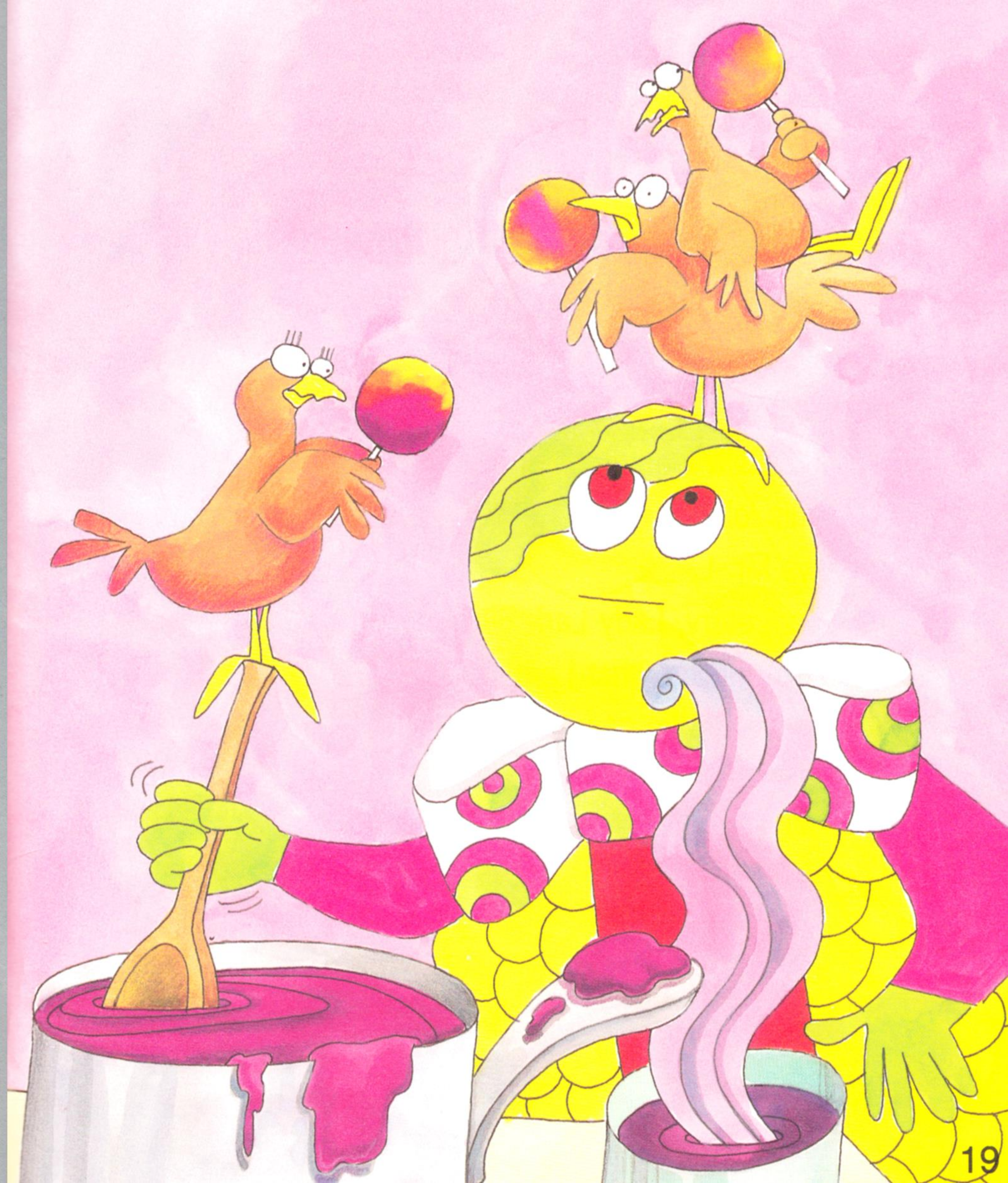
When the larks return, Mr. L is ready for them.
First, he gives each lark a little lemon-colored cap
to wear.
Then Lady Lark Bird gives each lark a light
lemon-colored basket to carry.
The larks put on their caps.
They hold the baskets in their beaks.
They fly away.
“They know what to do,” says Lady Lark Bird.



In less than one hour, the larks return.
The lemon-colored baskets are full.
The larks empty the baskets into two large pails.
Mr. L and Lady Lark Bird see that the pails
are filled to the top with sweet berries.
“Sweet berries will help me make
sweet lemon lollipops without sugar,” smiles Mr. L.
“Now, Mr. L, you can do what you thought
you could not do,” says Lady Lark Bird.



Mr. L cooks some of the sweet berries.
“I’ll just pour in a little of this
and a little of that,” he says as he mixes.
At last Mr. L gives Lady Lark Bird and the other larks
lollipops to lick.
“Are the lollipops still too sour?” he asks.
“Oh, no!” says Lady Lark Bird.
“These lollipops are too sweet!”
“Too sweet!” agree the larks.



“Let me lick a lollipop and see what I think,”
says Mr. L.
Mr. L licks a lollipop.
He gets a funny look on his face.
“This lollipop is so sweet, my lips stick together,”
says Mr. L.
“I am sorry, Lady Lark Bird.
I can only do what I can do.
I cannot make good lollipops without sugar.”



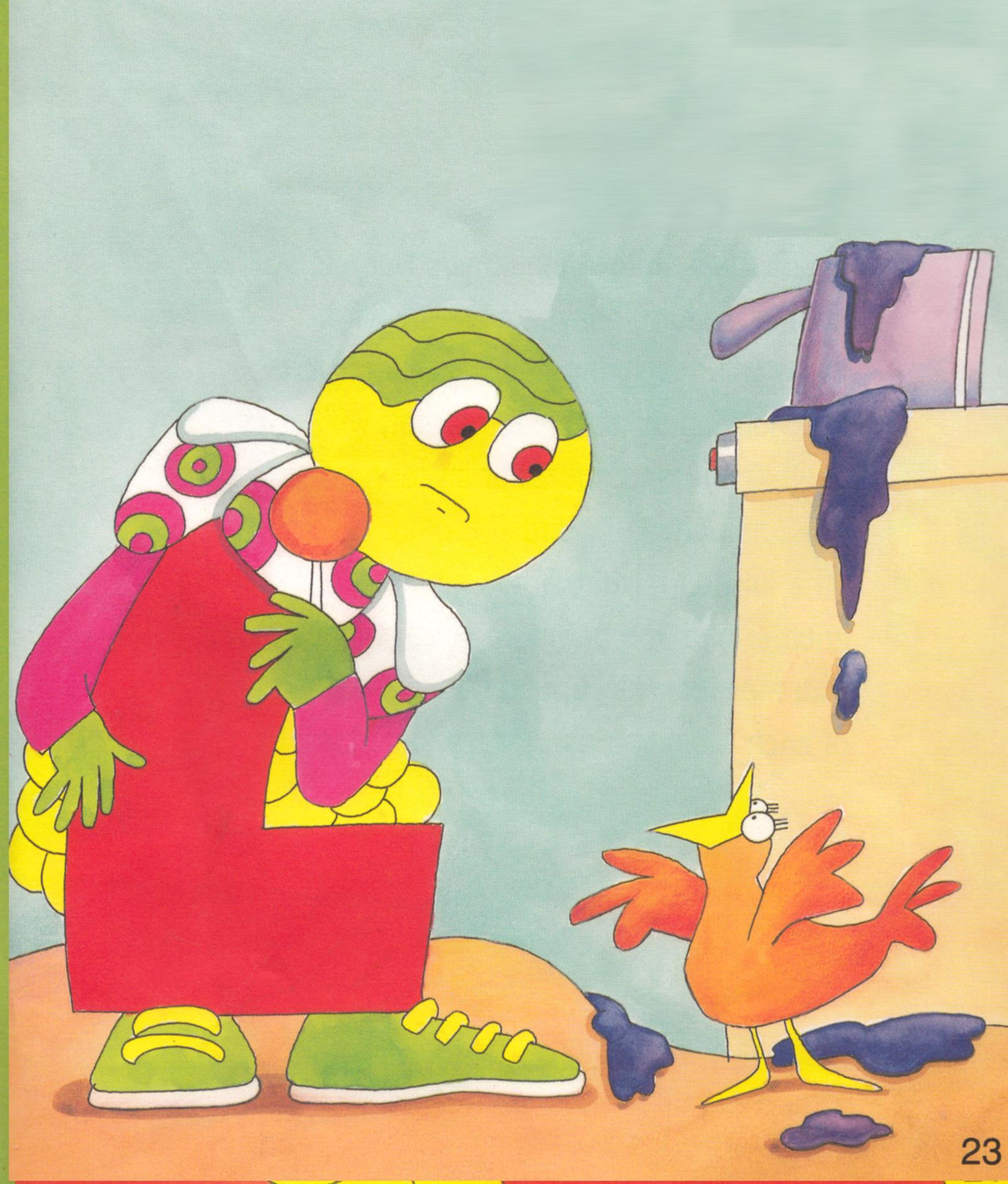
“Mr. L, using berries to sweeten your lollipops is a lovely idea,” says Lady Lark Bird.

“But you must measure the number of sweet berries you use.”

“I have measuring cups and measuring spoons, but I never measure,” says Mr. L.

“I pour in just a little of this and a little of that. I’ve always made lollipops that way.”

“Let’s try using your measuring cups and spoons,” says Lady Lark Bird.

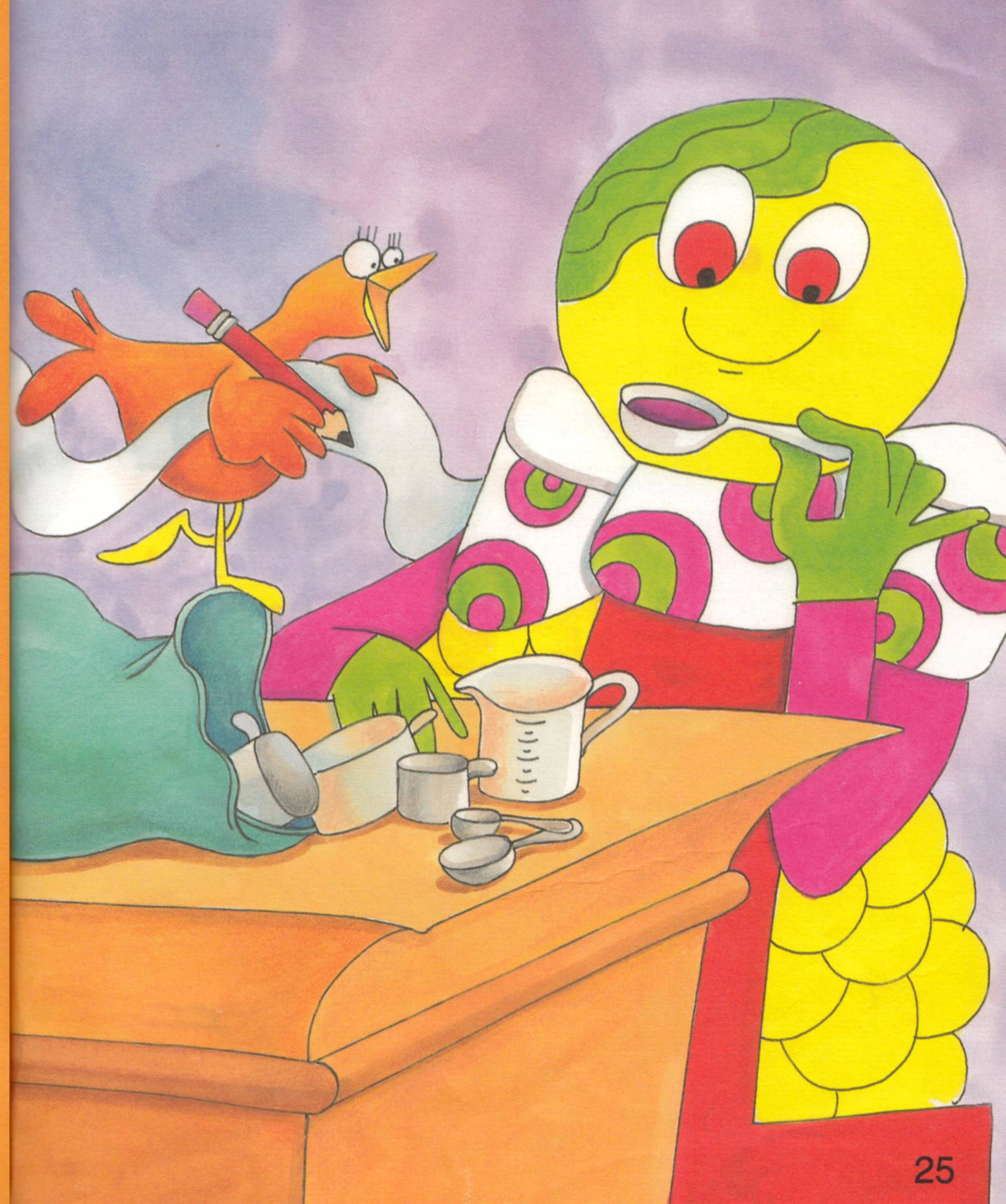


“Let’s measure everything you put into your lollipop mixture,” says Lady Lark Bird.

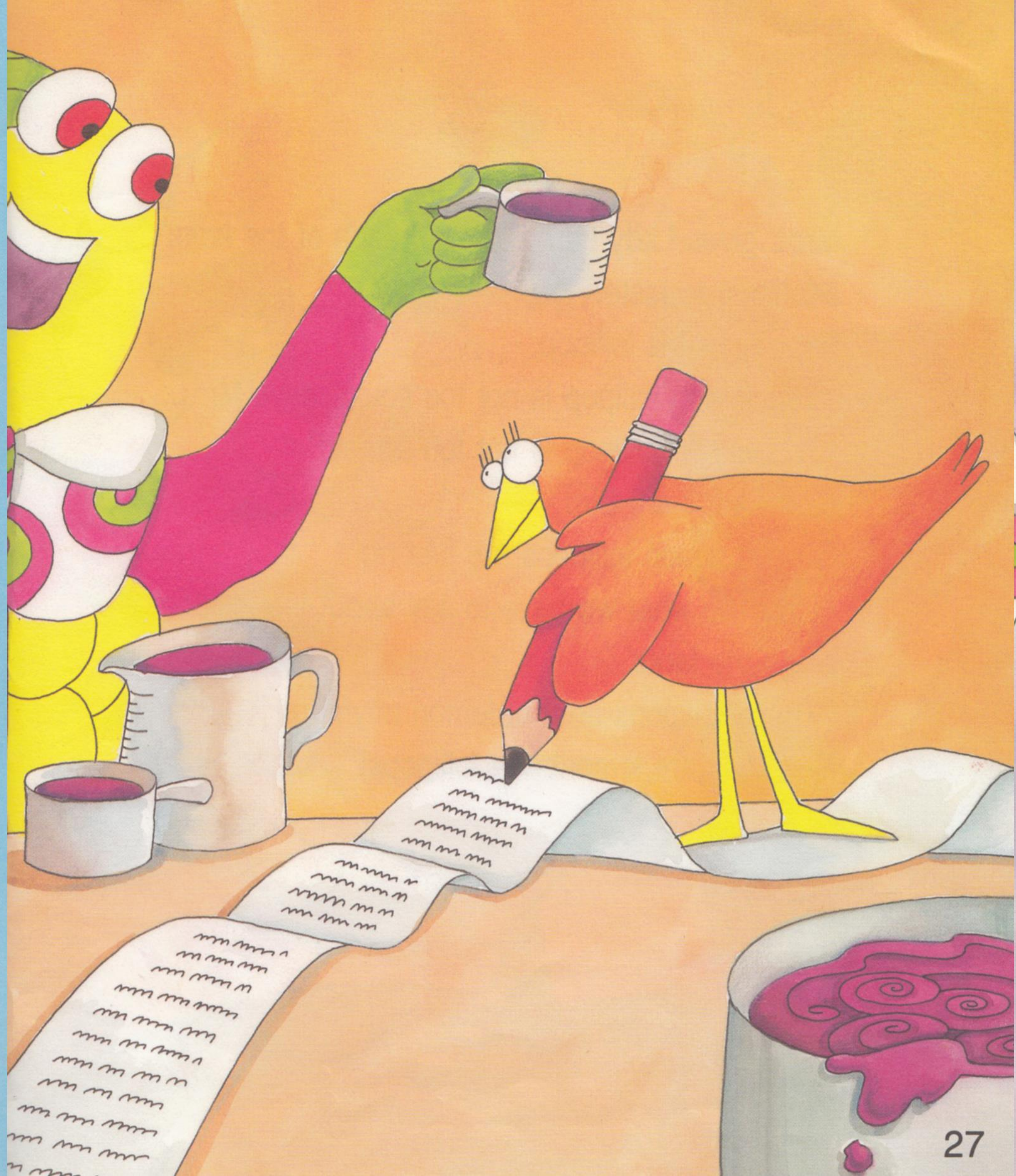
“How will measuring help?” asks Mr. L.

“If a lollipop mixture is too sweet, we’ll make another one and put fewer sweet berries into it,” explains Lady Lark Bird.

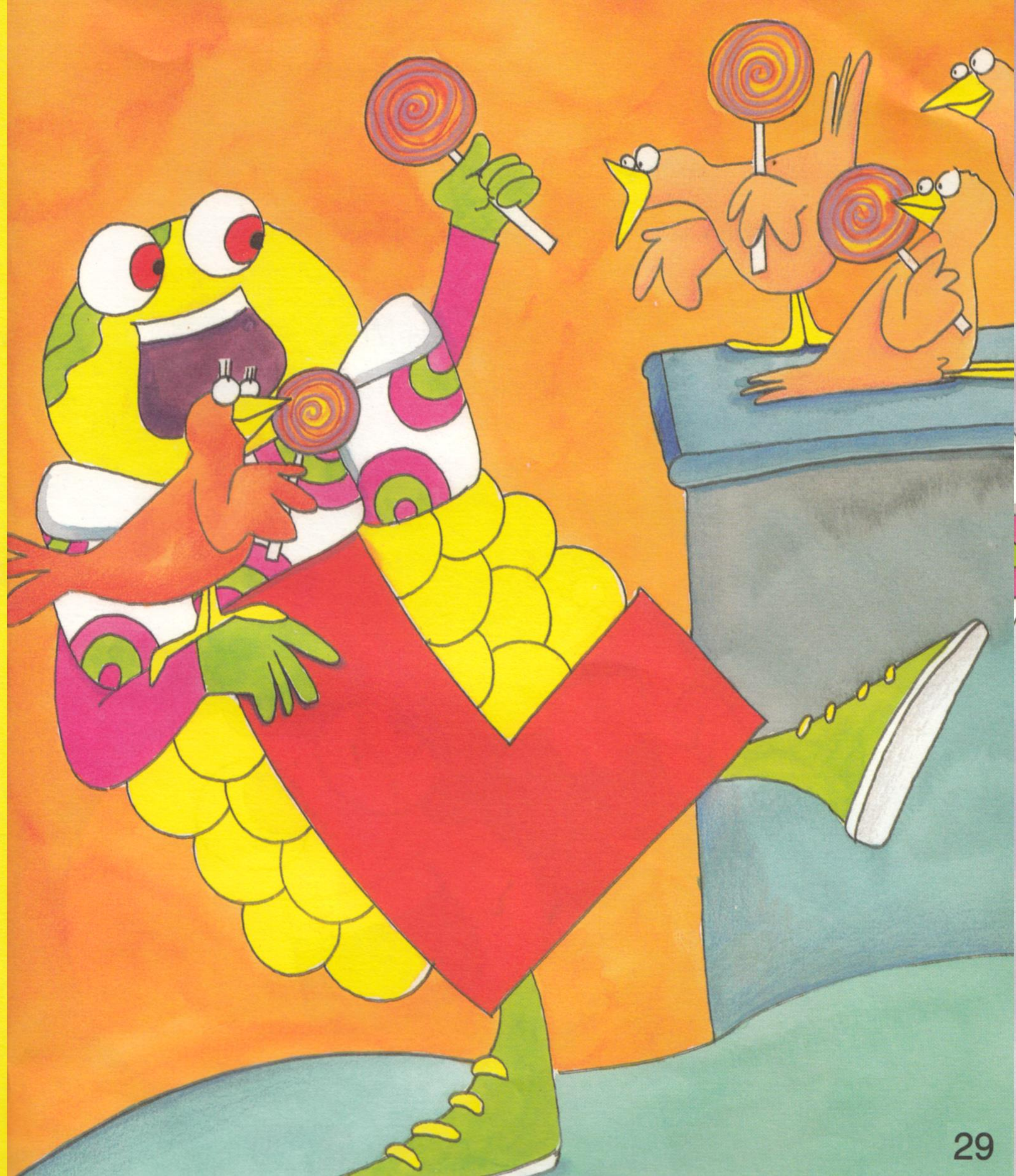
“If a lollipop mixture is too sour, we’ll make another one and put more sweet berries into it. You measure, Mr. L, and I’ll write the amount of each thing you use,” says Lady Lark Bird.



Mr. L measures and measures.
The larks help him.
Lady Lark Bird writes everything on a piece of paper.
“This will be our recipe,” she says.
Mr. L makes many different lollipop mixtures.
Some mixtures are too sweet.
Some mixtures are not sweet enough.
Then late that night Mr. L makes a mixture
he thinks is just right.



Mr. L gives Lady Lark Bird and each of the larks
a lollipop to taste.
Mr. L licks his lollipop.
“This lemon lollipop is not too sour,” says Mr. L.
“This lemon lollipop is not too sweet,”
says Lady Lark Bird.
“These lemon lollipops are just right,” they agree.
“Listen to what we have to say about the lollipops,”
laugh the larks.
“These lollipops are not lemon anymore!
Now they are lemonberry lollipops!”



“Mr. L, lemon or lemonberry, flavor doesn’t matter. You learned to make sweet lollipops without using sugar,” says Lady Lark Bird.

“I learned much more,” smiles Mr. L.

“I learned that people can do what they think they cannot do.”

